

SEXUAL RESPONSIBILITY CASE STUDIES

Sarah is 15 years old. Her parents are divorced, and her mother works long hours to support the family. She is not home until dinner time. Sarah has two younger brothers, but she often feels lonely and wonders if anyone really loves her. Several weeks ago, she met John at a friend's house. John is nineteen and seems to enjoy her company. Sarah goes out with John whenever she can. He brings her presents, takes her to movies, and tells her that she is pretty. Sarah is sure that she is in love with him and that he is going to marry her. She has been going pretty far with him, and on their last date he wanted her to go all the way.

What is the problem?
Identify Sarah's choices.
Consider the consequences of each choice.
Make a decision:
What should Sarah do?
What should she tell John?

Heather is in high school. Although she is not extraordinarily pretty, her figure is well-developed. She is in 11th grade. In the past, the boys in school have not paid much attention to her, but this year is different. Some of the best-looking boys in the school are asking her out on dates, and Heather feels very popular. Heather feels that the boys she dates really like her, partly because they make very aggressive sexual advances. Recently, she agreed to have sexual intercourse with one guy. Now, some of her other dates are demanding that she have intercourse with them. Heather is not sure that she likes what is happening.

What is the problem?
Identify Heather's choices.
Consider the consequences of each choice.
Make a decision:
What should Heather do?
What should she tell her boyfriends?

Tom is a normal and healthy 17-year-old who has never had a serious girlfriend and has never had sexual intercourse. During the summer he met a girl at a party. One thing led to another and they ended up making love. About two weeks later, Tom noticed a few sores on his penis. He didn't think that they were anything serious because they did not hurt very much. After a week, the sores went away.

What is the problem? (syphilis)
Identify Tom's choices.
Consider the consequences of each choice.
Make a decision:
What should Tom do?
Should he talk to anyone?
What should he say?

Karen had a crush on Jim, a young man at her school. She was excited when Jim asked her out on a date. On their first date, they went to a party. They were having a good time together until Jim started drinking. He did not act like he was drunk, but he started to touch her in ways that made her uncomfortable. Because she didn't want to make a scene at the party, she tactfully moved Jim's hands away from her body. Jim didn't seem to notice that she did not really like his touches, and he continued his behavior. Karen didn't know what to do, and she really liked Jim, so she let him continue. Later, Jim suggested that they leave the party and go to his car.

What is the problem?
Identify Karen's choices.
Consider the consequences of each choice.
Make a decision:
What should Karen do?
What should she tell Jim?

Cathy is a pretty and popular girl at her school. She is looking forward to going to the senior prom with her boyfriend, but two weeks before the prom, they break up. Now Cathy does not have a date for the prom. Nick has liked Cathy since junior high. Nick has been dating another girl, but he hasn't asked her to the prom. Cathy knows this, and she flatters Nick, gives him a lot of attention, and flirts with him in hopes that he will ask her to the prom. They go to the prom together, but Cathy completely ignores him afterwards.

What is the problem?
Identify Nick's choices.
Consider the consequences of each choice.
Make a decision:
What should Nick do?
What should he say?

Lisa was on a date with her steady boyfriend, Mark. They went to a movie and, as usual, they parked for a while in the foothills before he took her home. They often petted, but Lisa had been very clear about how far she would go, and Mark had always respected her limits. One night, Mark became upset when she said that she didn't want to go any further. Before she knew it, Mark was forcing himself on her. She didn't know what to do, but when she struggled, her clothes were ripped. Mark apologized quietly and took her home. She left the car quickly without saying good-bye.

What is the problem?
Identify Lisa's choices.
Consider the consequences of each choice.
Make a decision:
What should Lisa do?
What should she tell Mark?

Just Say Know: An Educator's Guide to Helping Young People Make Informed Decisions.
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